

CLAIMS

What we claim as our invention is:

1. A termite baiting composition, comprising a termite food source that (1) to a termite is not naturally already available as a building or as a living or dead plant; and (2) is easier for the termite to digest compared to a naturally available diet of the termite.
2. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the easier-to-digest material is smaller than cellulose.
3. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the easier-to-digest material comprises at least one β -linked carbohydrate.
4. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the easier-to-digest material is digestible only by termites including digestion by organisms within termites.
5. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, comprising at least one plant-derived β -linked hexose polymer.
6. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the easier-to-digest material includes one or both selected from the group consisting of β -2 \rightarrow 1 linkages and β -2 \rightarrow 6 linkages.
7. The termite baiting composition of claim 6, wherein a maximum molecular weight of molecules containing the linkages is about 33,200 Da.

8. The termite baiting composition of claim 6, wherein a maximum molecular weight of molecules containing the linkages is about 12,000 Da.
9. The termite baiting composition of claim 6, wherein a maximum molecular weight of molecules containing the linkages is about 5,000 Da.
10. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, comprising at least one fructan.
11. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, comprising inulins.
12. The termite baiting composition of claim 11, wherein the inulins have a molecular weight in a range of about 3,000 to 5,000 Da.
13. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, comprising levans.
14. The termite baiting composition of claim 13, wherein the levans have a molecular weight in a range of about 16,600 to 33,200 Da.
15. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the termite food source comprises β -2 \rightarrow 1 linkages linking D-fructofuranosyl units.
16. The termite baiting composition of claim 1, wherein the termite food source comprises β -2 \rightarrow 6 linkages linking D-fructofuranosyl units.
17. A termite baiting composition, comprising at least one β -linked carbohydrate which is smaller than cellulose, in a form reachable and consumable by termites.
18. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate

comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: β -2 \rightarrow 1-linked fructofuranosyl units or β -2 \rightarrow 6-linked fructofuranosyl units.

19. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate is a cellulose-derived polymer.
20. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate consists of up to 75 hexose units.
21. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate has a molecular weight in a range of 1,000 to 12,600 daltons.
22. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate is soluble or slightly soluble in water.
23. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the composition comprises at least one fructan.
24. The termite baiting composition of claim 23, wherein the fructan is selected from the group consisting of: inulins, levans, and fructofuranosides.
25. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, wherein the composition is coatable, or coated, on a wood material.
26. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, including a ground-up grass containing β -2 \rightarrow 6 fructofuranosides.
27. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, including a ground-up grass

embedded in a lignocellulosic material.

28. The termite baiting composition of claim 17, including a plant, or a plant derivative, containing β -2 \rightarrow 6 fructofuranosides.
29. The termite baiting composition of claim 28, wherein the plant or plant derivative is ground-up Jerusalem artichoke.
30. A method of attracting termites, comprising:
providing, in a first location, an amount of a composition comprising at least one β -2 \rightarrow 1-linked carbohydrate which is smaller than cellulose.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein one or more of the following occurs: (A) at least one termite feeds on the composition; (B) at least one termite after feeding on the composition departs the first location, and wherein subsequently further termites, after contact with the composition-consuming termite, come to the first location; (C) after a first termite feeds on the composition and departs the location, the first termite is in contact with additional termites who subsequently arrive at the first location.
32. A method of attracting termites, comprising:
providing, in a first location, an amount of a termite attractant which is a plant-derived β -linked carbohydrate which is not wood, decaying wood or cellulose.
33. A termite baiting station, comprising:
a composition comprising a β -linked carbohydrate which is smaller than cellulose, wherein the composition is disposed in a housing with at least one opening through which termites may travel to reach the composition.

34. A termite baiting station, comprising:

 a housing with at least one opening through which termites may

travel to reach a termite attractant housed therein;

 the termite attractant being a plant-derived β -linked carbohydrate which is not wood, decaying wood or cellulose.

35. A termite attractant comprising:

 a composition which is eaten by termites at a faster rate and/or in larger amounts than the termites would eat any other of wood, decaying wood or cellulose.

36. The termite attractant of claim 35, including a β -linked carbohydrate.

37. The termite attractant of claim 35, wherein the β -linked carbohydrate is a cellulose-derived polymer that is smaller than cellulose.

38. The termite attractant of claim 37, including at least one inulin.